

result in billions of dollars in investment, tens of thousands of construction jobs, and thousands of permanent jobs. It would also create jobs across the region and across the economic spectrum. A cracker would increase the local tax base, allowing local school districts to have more funds available to improve the education offered to our children.

Attracting a cracker to the region will benefit all of our states and the country as a whole, but my hope is that West Virginia is successful at gaining this exciting opportunity. I believe that West Virginia has everything that a company desiring to build a cracker could want. West Virginia has a strong budget picture, an improving tax climate, a ready and able workforce, and a strong history in the chemical industry. I want my constituents to know that I am working with other leaders from West Virginia to attract a cracker. A cracker would give West Virginians what they want the most: good paying jobs that will allow them to put food on the table and live the American dream.

Additionally, production in the Marcellus Shale gives us the opportunity to revive our industrial base. This is especially the case in regions that have historically been dominated by the steel and chemical industries. In order to actually produce the sources available in the shale we must first have steel and industrial equipment. The new demand for these materials will hopefully allow previously shuttered facilities to reopen, new facilities to be built, and existing facilities to increase production. All of this will create jobs.

We are blessed in West Virginia to have abundant, natural resources that power our country. The Marcellus Shale will undoubtedly play a major role in the future of the energy industry, moving us toward energy independence and creating jobs in ancillary industries as well as the energy industry.

Of course we must develop these resources in a responsible manner that ensures our grandchildren have clean air and water. It is essential that a proper regulatory structure is in place, one that balances exploiting this tremendous resource with environmental concerns. However, it is not necessary for the federal government and bureaucrats in Washington to balance these concerns. I fully support States being able to regulate the natural gas industry without undue interference from Washington bureaucrats. I am confident that states have the ability to regulate this industry, West Virginia showed that it had the ability to do so when it passed comprehensive legislation regulating shale gas production.

I urge my colleagues to continue fighting to ensure that we are able to take advantage of our domestic resources to create the jobs that Americans so desperately need.

HONORING THE LIFE OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA'S BELOVED LARRY BUTLER

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 23, 2012

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I rise today to recognize the life of Northwest Florida's beloved Larry Butler. Northwest Florida

and the world of music and entertainment mourn the loss of an extraordinarily gifted man.

A musical prodigy, Larry Butler began his distinguished career at the mere age of six, when he made a guest appearance singing with the Henry James Orchestra. At the age of nine, he had his own show on Pensacola's WEAR-TV3; and by his twenty-first birthday, Mr. Butler was already recording with musical legends such as George Jones, Loretta Lynn, Dolly Parton, Jerry Lee Lewis, and Johnny Cash. He later collaborated with both Johnny Cash and Kenny Rogers, on some of their most well known hits. Mr. Butler is a two-time Grammy Award Winner with over 100 gold and platinum awards. He won his first Grammy for writing B.J. Thomas' hit song, "(Hey, Won't You Play) Another Somebody Done Somebody Wrong Song." His second Grammy was for Producer of the Year.

In addition to his celebrated musical career, Mr. Butler has contributed his hard work and talent to improving Northwest Florida. After Hurricane Ivan devastated the Gulf Coast in 2004, Mr. Butler played a crucial role in orchestrating and producing three sold-out concerts with musical friends, Kenny Rodgers, Willie Nelson, and Will Hedgecock, which together raised more than a half million dollars for community rebuilding efforts.

To some, Larry Butler will be remembered as a musical genius; to others, he will be remembered for his charitable work in the Northwest Florida Community; and to his family and friends, he will always be remembered as a loving father and spouse. He touched the lives of many, not only with his music, but also with his devotion and commitment to his family and community.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I am honored to recognize the life and deeds of Larry Butler—a talented musician, committed community activist and loving family man. He will be missed by many, but his memory will live on through the timeless legacy he left. My wife Vicki joins me in extending our thoughts and prayers to the entire Butler family.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF RETIRED SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE RAMON V. DIAZ

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 23, 2012

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of retired Superior Court of Guam Judge, Ramon Valero Diaz. Judge Diaz passed away on January 15, 2012 at the age of 93.

Judge Diaz was born on October 13, 1918 in Manila, Philippines and is the son of Dr. Vicente Lozada Diaz and Bibiana Valero Diaz. He came to Guam in 1951 to work and make a living for his family. In 1956, he was admitted to the Guam Bar Association, and in 1958, became a naturalized U.S. citizen.

In 1980, Judge Diaz became the first person of Filipino descent to be appointed as a judge for the Superior Court of Guam. After 15 years of government service, he retired as a family court judge.

Judge Diaz graduated from the University of Santo Tomas in Manila, Philippines. In 1941,

in the wake of World War II, he was commissioned as an officer in the Philippine Army and was soon inducted into the United States Armed Forces of the Far East (USAF) as an infantry line officer. On April 9, 1942, he was captured by Japanese Forces in the province of Bataan, Philippines, and was held as a prisoner of war in the Capas Concentration Camp. Later that year he was released as a POW and resumed his military duties shortly thereafter. In 1945, he completed studies from the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General School for commissioned officers at University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Upon his return from JAG school, he assumed the role of Chief of Claims Branch under JAG, Philippine Army, where he was responsible for the adjudication of all types of war claims in favor of heirs.

In 1951, Judge Diaz retired from the Philippine Army as Captain. Throughout his distinguished military career, he received various awards, including the United States and Philippine Presidential Unit Citation and the Philippine Presidential Military Merit Medal.

Judge Diaz was involved in many community organizations throughout his life. He was among the first ordained permanent deacons in the Archdiocese of Agaña and was instrumental in organizing the Knights of Columbus, Guam Council and Assembly. Further, he was a founding member of the Catholic Social Services, and was active in the establishment of St. Dominic's senior care home and the Dominican Catholic schools on Guam.

Judge Diaz was also heavily involved in the founding of the Filipino Community of Guam, where he served as President. He also helped establish the Marianas Audubon Society, the UST Alumni Association of Guam, and the Chapter of Bataan-Corregidor Veterans on Guam.

Judge Diaz was married to Josefina de la Concepcion for 66 years and together they raised 10 children: Marilu Martinez, Carl Diaz (deceased), Mariles Benavente, Marilen Artero, Maribel Chandler, Mariann Carr, Maricar Davis, Tony Diaz, Vicente Diaz, and Ramon Diaz Jr., and have been blessed with 19 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren.

I join our community in mourning the loss of Judge Ramon Diaz. His contributions to the Guam Judiciary and our community will be remembered by the many citizens he helped throughout his life. We extend heartfelt condolences to his many family, friends, and loved ones.

God bless Judge Diaz. He will be missed.

RICHLAND SPRINGS COYOTES STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 23, 2012

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Richland Springs Coyotes on an outstanding 2011 football season. On December 9, 2011, the Coyotes won the Class A, 6-man Division II State Championship with a dominant 76-28 performance over the Motley County Matadors.

The victory capped a perfect season, where 14 of the Coyotes' opponents were subjected to the 45-point mercy rule—the Matadors were